

**REMARKS**

Claims 1, 3-11, and 13-20 are pending in the application. Claims 1 and 11 have been amended herein. Claims 2 and 12 have been canceled. Favorable reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

***ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER***

Applicant acknowledges, with appreciation, that the Examiner has indicated that claims 2 and 12 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Consistent with the indication of the Examiner, independent claims 1 and 11 have been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claims 2 and 12, respectively. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1 and 11, and the claims that respectively depend therefrom, are in a state of allowance.

***REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC §103(a)***

Claims 1, 8-9, 11, and 18-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Suzuki* (US Patent No. 7,424,203), in view of *Morinaga et al.* (US Patent No. 7,359,620). Claims 4-7 and 14-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Suzuki* in view of *Morinaga et al.*, further in view of *Saejis* (US Patent No. 7,376,151). Claims 3, 10, 13, and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Suzuki* in view of *Morinaga et al.*, further in view of *Abelard et al.* (US Patent No. 6,823,131).

Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections under 35 USC §103(a) are moot in view of the amendments to independent claims 1 and 11. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 USC §103(a) are respectfully requested.

**CONCLUSION**

Accordingly, all claims 1, 3-11, and 13-20 are believed to be allowable and the application is believed to be in condition for allowance. A prompt action to such end is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner feel that a telephone interview would be helpful to facilitate favorable prosecution of the above-identified application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Should a petition for an extension of time be necessary for the timely reply to the outstanding Office Action (or if such a petition has been made and an additional extension is necessary), petition is hereby made and the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees (including additional claim fees) to Deposit Account No. 18-0988.

Respectfully submitted,

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